

Proposed policy on advisers and committees for graduate students

Background

OSU currently does not have a policy regarding appointment of an adviser or a committee member should a student be unable to find or maintain an adviser or full committee. Cornell, UW-Madison and University of South Florida all place the responsibility on the student and allow for dismissal when the student is unsuccessful, whereas UC Davis, UW and Virginia Commonwealth obligate the University to put together a committee. It is in OSU's best interest to decide one way or the other on this issue, to avoid ad hoc and inconsistent treatment of students in similar situations.

Recommendation

We have an ethical responsibility to students to provide them with the opportunity to continue to progress toward completion of a degree if indeed they are making progress toward the degree, both academically as well as through meeting university and program learning outcomes.

[DRAFT] Graduate School Policy re Committees

Every graduate student must have an advisor, *but need not be provided financial support*. By the third term of enrollment for masters students and fifth term for doctoral students, every graduate student must also have a Graduate Committee constituted of the membership described in <http://gradschool.oregonstate.edu/success/graduate-committee> .

In most cases, students secure their own advisors and committees, or they are assigned by the program. The Program Lead (e.g. Director, Department Head/Chair) or their designee (e.g. Graduate Committee Chair, Associate Chair) for the student's Degree Program will, in consultation with potential advisors/committee members, assign an advisor and/or committee member for students who are making satisfactory progress toward their degree (<http://catalog.oregonstate.edu/ChapterDetail.aspx?key=38#Section1816>) and who, despite their efforts, are unable to secure *or maintain* an advisor or constitute a full committee on their own. *All programs should be documenting progress toward a degree for each of their students annually.*

Should the Program be unable or unwilling to assign an adviser or committee member to allow the student the opportunity to succeed, then the appropriate action will be determined by a panel consisting of:

- The Graduate Program Director for the student's Program
- The Dean or Associate Dean of the Graduate School
- A representative from Graduate Council
- A Graduate Student Representative from ASOSU

Students who believe that they have been discriminated against or that their rights have been denied in connection with their Degree Program's assignment of an advisor or Graduate Committee may file a grievance pursuant to the Grievance Procedures for Graduate Students at OSU [<http://catalog.oregonstate.edu/ChapterDetail.aspx?key=38#Section1818>] or http://oregonstate.edu/dept/grad_school/grievance.php